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MONEY, MONEY IN MINI AUCTION AS FRANCHISES SET TO FORTIFY TEAMS

Focus on overseas players as Mallika Sagar set to become the first woman auctioneer to wield the gavel at the IPL event in Dubai on Tuesday

OVERSEAS BOWLERS ON DEMAND THIS TIME

Unlike the past where overseas all-rounders were the pick of the lot, this auction could be about fast bowlers, especially with the impact player rule in place. Bowlers Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins, Gerald Coetzee and even Harry Brook among batters are expected to go for some big money. Similarly, Rachin Ravindra and Daryl Mitchell could be on the radar

SHARDUL, SHAHRUKH IN THE LIMELIGHT

- Among Indian players, the likes of Shardul Thakur and Shahrukh Khan are expected to be the most sought after
- Teams' purse: Gujarat Titans: ₹38.15 cr, Sunrisers Hyderabad: ₹34 cr, KKR: ₹32.7 cr, CSK: ₹31.4 cr, Punjab Kings: ₹29.1 cr, DC: ₹28.95 cr, RCB (₹23.25 cr) MI Indians: ₹17.75 cr, RR: ₹14.5 cr); Lucknow: ₹13.15 cr | P13

332

TOTAL NUMBER OF PLAYERS FOR 77 AVAILABLE SLOTS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

EXCISE SCAM

Kejri gets fresh ED summons to appear on Dec 21

UJWAL JALALI @ New Delhi

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday issued fresh summons to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to appear before it on Thursday in connection with money laundering charges in the excise policy scam. It comes a day before Kejriwal is scheduled to leave for a 10-day *Vipassana* session at an undisclosed location.

The Chief Minister's Office had a couple of days ago informed that Kejriwal will be unavailable from December 19 to 30 as he is to participate in his annual *Vipassana* retreat. *Vipassana* sessions mandate that the participant stays out of contact with the outer world and observes complete silence.

Senior AAP leader Sandeep Pathak accused the BJP-led Central government of deliberately targeting AAP leaders. "Modi is most afraid of Arvind Kejriwal. If they cannot defeat him in the elections, they resort to conspiracy. Those who surrender before Modi ji are given clean chit in all cases. If Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh, Satyendar Jain are to join the BJP today, then they will be given clean chits too," Sandeep Pathak alleged.

The ED had earlier issued a summons to Kejriwal on November 2. However, he ignored it and demanded that the agency withdraw it. He went on to describe the summons as illegal and politically motivated.

Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress

First, intruders attacked Parliament. Now, Modi govt is attacking Parliament and democracy. All democratic norms are being thrown into the dustbin

Mamata Banerjee, Trinamool

The House is supreme...If they (BJP) have majority of members, why are they so afraid? If they suspend all the (Oppn) members, how can they raise their voice?

Dayanidhi Maran, DMK

The member responsible for breach of security remains in the House, but nearly 100 MPs who raised questions are suspended. This is unprecedented

D Raja, CPI

Onslaught on the opposition MPs is an onslaught on democracy. Mass suspension of MPs for raising security breach puts a question mark on the survival of democracy

Whopping 78 Opposition MPs suspended in a day

Displayed placards in House seeking Shah's statement on LS breach

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

IN a complete breakdown of communication between the Opposition parties and the government in Parliament on Monday, as many as 78 Opposition MPs were suspended for allegedly disrupting proceedings and displaying placards in the House over the the Lok Sabha security breach last week.

The suspended members include 45 from the Rajya Sabha and 33 from the Lok Sabha. With this, the total number of suspended Opposition MPs has gone up to 92 since last Thursday. On December 14, a total of 14 MPs were suspended for demanding a statement from Union home minister Amit Shah on the December 13 intrusion.

This also marks the highest number of MPs suspended from both Houses in a day. In 1989, 63 members of the Lower House were suspended on March 15 over tabling of the report of the Justice Thakkar Committee that inquired into the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The suspension on Monday came after both Houses witnessed chaos and multiple adjournments as the Opposition refused to budge.

In the Lok Sabha, the suspended members include floor leaders of the Congress (Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and his deputy Gaurav Gogoi) and DMK (T R Baalu).

As soon as the Lok Sabha convened in the morning, Speaker Om Birla assured all members that a high-level panel is looking into the security breach. "It is unfortunate that politics is being played on the issue. To enter the well of the house and do sloganeering and disrupt the proceedings is against the sanctity of the House," he said.

Though Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi appealed to the Opposition to accept the Speaker's request, the members continued with sloganeering and moved into the well of the House.

Later, Joshi moved a motion suspending 30 members from the House for the remaining part of the Winter Session. The suspension of three Congress MPs has been referred to the Privileges Committee.

Slamming the suspension of Opposition MPs, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that the government is trying to bulldoze important draft legislations in an "Opposition-less" Parliament.

Om Birla, Lok Sabha Speaker

It is unfortunate that politics is being played on the issue. To enter the well of the house and do sloganeering and disrupt the proceedings is against the sanctity of the House. Also placards are not allowed in the House

Pralhad Joshi, Union minister

Please accept the Speaker's appeal for order. I also appeal with folded hands to the members not wave the placards. It was agreed at the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee not to carry placards

Piyush Goyal, Union minister

The rude behaviour of the Congress and its friendly partners in both Houses and the manner in which several members brought placards in the House, it has embarrassed the entire country

Anurag Thakur, I&B minister

All political parties should have unitedly demanded action against the people responsible for this the security breach, but the Opposition is still doing politics on this issue

Elderly, those with comorbidities advised to wear mask: Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

WITH neighbouring Kerala reporting one case of JN.1 variant of Covid recently, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Monday advised citizens above 60 years old and those suffering from cold and heart ailments to wear masks as a precautionary measure.

"A Technical Advisory Committee meeting to discuss the precautionary measures for Covid has been called on Tuesday. A decision will be taken based on World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines. No restrictions will be in place till then," he said.

"Many devotees of Sabarimala and tourists are travelling across state borders. Proper guidelines will be released on Tuesday after the TAC meeting," he added.

He confirmed that health vigilance on the Kodagu-Kerala border has been increased, while such measures will be taken in Mangaluru and Chamrajnagar districts too.

"More tests will be conducted across health centres to prevent the spread of the new variant. All government hospitals have been equipped with PPE kits, oxygen cylinders and ventilators as precautionary measures," he said.

Meanwhile, one person was tested positive for Covid at Maddur in Mandya district on Friday. He was asymptomatic, had no travel history and was staying in the village. P3

Fingers crossed, spouses of veterans reach Doha

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

THE wives of eight Indian naval veterans held by Qatar are in Doha hoping to bring back their husbands as India awaits a formal confirmation on whether the eight officers are among those pardoned by Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on December 14. The emir on Thursday pardoned several prisoners ahead of Qatar's National Day on December 18 (Monday).

"Of late, there has been some optimism among the family members of the eight naval veterans. The meeting they had with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on December 10 renewed their expectations for an early repatriation. In the recent past, things have improved for the eight veterans. They have been allowed a fourth consular access, they are allowed to use the gym and outdoor sports like tennis and badminton. It's a matter of time before they head back home, possibly with their wives who are in Doha at present," said a source.

As for the legal process, the next date for the hearing is December 28. The eight naval veterans jailed since August 30 are: Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Saurabh Vasisht, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, Captain Birendra Kumar Verma, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta, Commander Amit Nagpal, and Sailor Ragesh.

Emir's pardon is an annual gesture

The Qatari ruler's pardon of prisoners is an annual gesture to mark the National Day. Officials do not reveal the identities or the count of of the prisoners freed by the Emir's order, called the Amiri Diwan

EXPRESS READ

Jaishankar to visit Russia to firm up pacts

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi is likely to hold telephonic talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin before External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar leaves for Russia on December 25 for a five-day trip. According to sources, the two leaders will prepare the ground for a large number of financial, strategic and infrastructure agreements that are likely to be ironed out during Jaishankar's visit | P10

Revised Telecom Bill drops OTT oversight

New Delhi: The government on Monday introduced the final draft of the Indian Telecommunications Bill 2023, which preserves the powers of the TRAI, drops OTT services from the ambit of telecom services, and provides for the direct allocation of satellite spectrum to telecom companies. The bill seeks to replace three existing pieces of legislation related to the regulation of telecom services | P10

4 TN DISTRICTS MAROONED

Residents moving to safer locations with the help of a makeshift boat in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, on Monday. Three people died on Monday in the unprecedented rainfall that upended lives in Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi and Kanniyakumari districts over the past two days. Kayalpattinam in Thoothukudi recorded 95cm of rainfall in 24 hours | V KARTHIK ALAGU | P5

NIA arrests eight in Ballari module case from 4 states, 5 from Karnataka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday morning raided 19 locations in four states, including Bengaluru and Ballari in Karnataka, and arrested the "leader" — Minaz alias Mohd Sulaiman — from Cowlbazar in Ballari along with seven other operatives of the 'Ballari module' of the banned Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), from Amaravati, Mumbai and Pune in Maharashtra, Jamshedpur and Bokaro in Jharkhand and Delhi.

In Karnataka, Minaz and Syed Sameer were arrested from Cowlbazar in Ballari and Mohd Muniruddin, Syed Samiullah alias Sami and Mohd Muzammil from Byadarahalli in Bengaluru West. The other arrested include Anas Iqbal Shaikh from Mumbai, Shayan Rahman alias Hussain from Delhi and Mohd Shahbaz alias Zulfikar alias Guddu from Jamshedpur. Sources said Muniruddin, Samiullah and Muzammil are reportedly from Ballari.

The NIA stated in an official release that the "eight ISIS agents arrested during the raids were involved in actively promoting terror and terror-related activities of ISIS under the leadership of Minaz. The investigation has revealed that the accused, in pursuance of the path of violent Jihad, Khilafat, were continuously in touch with one another via encrypted Apps. They were specifically aiming at college students for the purpose of recruitment, and were also circulating documents relating to recruitment of Mujahideen for the purpose of Jihad".

According to the agency, the "raids have led to the seizure of explosive raw materials, such as sulphur, potassium nitrate, charcoal, gunpowder, sugar and ethanol, sharp-edged weapons, unaccounted cash and incriminating documents, along with smartphones and other digital devices". P6

Crimes against women up, but panel headless

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

The Karnataka State Commission for Women, a statutory and quasi-judicial body, has remained headless for the last seven months despite an increase in crimes against women, including a woman being paraded naked in Belagavi recently.

Though a team from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has visited the victim and the Karnataka High Court has taken a serious note of the incident, the state women's commission has remained silent as there is no chairperson.

CONTINUED ON P5

Mute spectators should be penalised, says HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court on Monday came down hard on mute spectators to the December 11 incident in Hosa Vantamuri village in Belagavi district in which a woman was stripped and paraded naked over her son eloping with a girl. Describing the inaction of those mutely watching the incident as "nothing short of passive abetment" and "collective cowardice", the court observed that time has come to take serious steps to fix a collective responsibility for being mute spectators when such incidents occur.

The division bench of Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice Krishna S Dixit made the observations on Monday while referring to the first governor-general of British-ruled India Lord William Bentinck's practice of fixing a collective responsibility by imposing penalties on the entire village to which perpetrators belonged for indulging in arson, loot or robbery to teach them a lesson for allowing them to indulge in such crimes.

The court said: "We have seen such unfortunate situations and it was at the level of punishing the culprits and active assailants. But now the time has come to give a very serious thought and a different angle to look into such situations." P6

NSE

Soch kar
Samajh kar
Invest kar

DON'T FALL FOR TEMPTATIONS!

THINK. UNDERSTAND. INVEST.

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